

strengths, and purpose. The temptation is so easy to say that she will finish Walter's legacy: the truth is that she will improve on it.

LOIS is here not by accident. Walter Capps had a wonderful vision for his district; and for what that meant to all of us. LOIS CAPPS will continue Walter's blessed work, and leave her own imprint on the national scene. She is most welcome here.

Mr. Speaker, the Gentlewoman from California is a most welcome addition to this institution. More than anyone, she is qualified to carry on the legacy of our departed colleague, Walter Capps. But, Mr. Speaker, more than anyone, she is qualified to study and improve upon Walter's legacy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 12, I missed Roll call Vote #50 due to an address I was giving before the National Association of State Boards of Education. Had I been present to vote on final passage of H.R. 2883, the Government Performance and Results Act, I would have cast a no vote.

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last week the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary heard testimony in support of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe's Fiscal Year 1999 budget request. In my written submission for the committee, I shared portions of a poignant letter I recently received from the National Director of the Union of Councils of Soviet Jews, Micah Natfalin. Mr. Natfalin's words and observations are well said and heartfelt, and frankly, he reflects observations about the Commission and its work that many NGOs and public policy analysts have shared with me over the years.

The Commission is aggressive in pursuing its mandate to monitor and encourage compliance with the Helsinki Accords. Through its hearings, public briefings, bilateral communications and encouraging strong statements by the U.S. delegation at OSCE meeting, the Commission encourages compliance through public diplomacy and suasion. The Commission's work is significantly enhanced by the diligent work of non-governmental organizations both here in the United States and in the field. The commitment and effectiveness of the Commission and the staff which are expressed in this letter from the Union of Councils speaks for themselves. Mr. Speaker, these complimentary words about the work of the Commission and particularly the expertise of the staff are not uncommon. For the record, I would like to share excerpts from the March 10 letter.

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews has been a close observer of the Commission's

work since its inception. . . . In the vast desert of policy and think tank meetings, largely concerned with questions of economics, military defense, and environmental protection, the Helsinki Commission stands as the single oasis where those concerned with human rights, and especially the grassroots efforts to support common citizens in their quest to hold their national and local governments accountable to the standards of democracy, rule of law and a civil society, can invariably receive a responsive and understanding hearing.

The power and moral influence of the Helsinki Commission lies in the commitment of its entirely bi-partisan membership in the House and Senate. Its strength and the quality of its assessments derive from one of the most dedicated and professionally expert staffs I have encountered since I was a Congressional staff member in the early 1960s. . . . The Helsinki Commission's high standard of quality tends to obscure the limitations in its scope and reach. While it is difficult to measure quantifiably the opportunities thus lost, those of us in the human rights community can attest that the success of your work demands greater resources. No other institution can match the Helsinki Commission. It would seem incumbent on the Congress to strengthen your ability to expand the staff, which is your most precious resource.

THE BOBBY STEPHEN ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

HON. JOHN E. SUNUNU

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an annual New Hampshire event and the man who hosts it—the Bobby Stephen St. Patrick's Day Celebration. Today marks the 20th anniversary of this Manchester, NH gathering hosted by Bobby, a former State Senator and current Deputy Executive Director of the New Hampshire Job Training Council.

Over the past two decades, Bobby's generous spirit has turned this well-loved and well-attended annual event into an opportunity to give back to his community and his state. For the second consecutive year, he will be donating the entire proceeds from today's celebration to the Jobs for NH Graduates Program, a program for at-risk teens sponsored by the New Hampshire Job Training Council.

This award-winning program is a school-to-career transition program which teaches young people how to look for, find, and keep a job. Currently in place at 30 New Hampshire high schools, the program has served more than 5,000 young people in its ten-year history. It offers students the opportunity to improve their grades, learn about different careers, and serve their communities.

A modest list of the students' achievements includes volunteering to transport donated food from a local store to the Manchester Soup Kitchen, organizing a student job fair at Manchester Central High School, presenting an evening of entertainment to elderly residents at the Hunt Community Center in Nashua, serving as mentors for elementary school children in Newport, and volunteering time at a Red Cross blood drive in Concord.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Bobby Stephen for his commitment and contributions to New

Hampshire's youth. His goals and effort are an example for all of us that show how giving back to your community can make a difference for so many. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CONGRATULATIONS TO AL HARRINGTON, A TRUE CHAMPION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating an outstanding young man, Al Harrington of St. Patrick High School in Elizabeth, New Jersey, who was named The Gatorade Circle of Champions National High School Boys Basketball Player of the Year. This prestigious award honors not only athletic excellence, but also academic achievement.

We in New Jersey are very proud of this gifted young man, who has distinguished himself both on and off the court. The newspaper USA Today ranks St. Patrick as the Number 9 team in the nation. Al is averaging 25 points per game, along with 15 rebounds, 3.5 assists, and 3 blocked shots. A three-time All-Stater and a pre-season All-American choice, he will be playing in a variety of post-season All-Star games.

Al is following in a proud tradition. New Jersey boasts four winners of this national award—Claudio Reyna of St. Benedict's, Kris Durham of Scotch Plains, and Willie Banks of Jersey City, now with the New York Yankees.

Al maintains a 3.1 grade point average and has performed well on the Scholastic Assessment Test. He is a well-rounded young man who is involved in a variety of extracurricular activities and volunteer work. He held a starring role in the school play Annie Get Your Gun, he sings in the school choir, volunteers in a local hospital, and works with grammar school youngsters.

Mr. Speaker, Al Harrington is a young man with a bright future who embodies the very best qualities of today's youth. I know my colleagues join me in expressing our congratulations and best wishes to him as well as to the other St. Patrick's players and their dedicated coach, Kevin Boyle.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE IN KANSAS CITY, MO

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Kansas City, Missouri. The second largest parade in the country, Kansas City represents the best of the tradition of the Irish. Started by local radio personality Mike Murphy in 1973, the celebration now includes families, community and school groups, civic and labor organizations representing the greater Kansas City metropolitan area.

The parade has become one of the largest in America because of the dedication and